In the claims: The claims are as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A method by which a first device (11)
provides a connection (14) to a second device (12), characterized
by:

a step (20) in which the first device (11) obtains from a
contacts bearer data store (11d 11d') association information (11d
11d') including a list of at least two possible bearers for
providing the connection (14), wherein the contacts bearer data
store (11d 11d') associates contacts with bearers so as to arrange
the association information by contact; and

a step (28) in which the first device (11) selects one of the
at least two possible bearers based on a predetermined selection
strategy (11b) or by trying each of the at least two possible
bearers in turn until the connection (14) is made;

thereby automatically selecting a bearer for providing the
connection (14) to the second device (12) without requiring an
input by a user of the first device (11) at the time of providing
the connection (14).

2. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further characterized by:

a step (20) in which the association information is stored in
a contacts bearer data store (11d 11d'); and

a step (24) in which the first device (11) refers to the
contacts bearer data store (11d 11d') accessible to the first
device (11) to obtain a list of at least two possible bearers for
providing the connection (14).

3. (Original) A method as in claim 2, further characterized by:

a step (24) in which the first device (11) refers to an owner
bearer data store (11c) to obtain a list of bearers available to
the first device (11) and also refers to a bearer selection

strategy data store (11b) to obtain the predetermined selection strategy; and

a step (25) in which the first device (11) refers to the contacts bearer data store (11d 11d') to obtain a list of possible bearers for providing the connection (14) and an address for each of the possible bearers; and

a step (26) in which the first device (11) eliminates from the list of possible bearers any bearer that does not occur on the list of available bearers.

4. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further characterized in that a public source of contact information is used in the step (20) of obtaining association information (11d 11d').

5. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further characterized in that in the step (20) of obtaining association information (11d 11d'), the second device (12) communicates to the first device (10) the association information needed by the first device (10) for automatically selecting a bearer for communication with the second device (12).

6. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the predetermined selection strategy (11b) indicates selecting a bearer based on at least one of the following selection criteria: acceptable price; acceptable bandwidth; acceptable latency; as ordered in a list (11d 11d') hosted in the first device (11); fastest to connect when the first device (11) attempts to make different connections in parallel to the second device (12) via different possible bearers; wherein the acceptable price, acceptable bandwidth, and acceptable latency are as compared to predetermined thresholds for price, bandwidth and latency.

7. (Original) A method as in claim 6, wherein the predetermined threshold for latency indicates a minimum quality of service (QoS)

requirement for the connection (14).

8. (Original) A method as in claim 7, further comprising a step
(29) of periodically checking the QoS requirement during
communication via the connection (14) and initiating a bearer
change if the QoS is no longer sufficient.

9. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the association
information (11d 11d') includes a bearer identifier for each of at
least two different bearers associated with the second device
(12).

10. (Original) A method as in claim 9, wherein the association
information (11d 11d') further includes an address for use with
each bearer associated with the second device (12).

11. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein in the step (28) of
selecting a bearer, the first device (11) attempts to connect to
the second device (12) based on an association of the second
device (12) linking the second device (12) to a name of an
intended recipient.

12. (Original) A method as in claim 11, wherein in the step (28)
of selecting a bearer, the first device (11) attempts to connect
to the second device (12) using the at least two different bearers
included in the association information (11d 11d') as associated
with the second device (12).

13. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising: a
computer readable storage structure embodying computer program
code thereon for execution by a computer processor in a first
device (11), said computer program code for use in providing for
the first device (11) a connection (14) to a second device (12),
said computer program code comprising:

computer program code for causing the computer processor to perform a step (20) in which the first device (11) obtains <u>from a contacts bearer data store (11d 11d')</u> association information ~~(11d 11d')~~ including a list of at least two possible bearers for providing the connection (14)<u>, wherein the contacts bearer data store (11d 11d') associates contacts with bearers so as to arrange the association information by contact</u>; and

computer program code for causing the computer processor to perform a step (28) in which the first device (11) selects one of the at least two possible bearers based on a predetermined selection strategy (11b) or by trying each of the at least two possible bearers in turn until the connection (14) is made;

said computer program code thereby providing functionality for automatically selecting a bearer for providing the connection (14) to the second device (12) without requiring an input by a user of the first device (11) at the time of providing the connection (14).

14. (Original) A computer program product as in claim 13, further characterized by:

computer program code for causing the computer processor to perform a step (20) of storing the association information in a contacts bearer data store (11d 11d'); and

computer program code for causing the computer processor to perform a step (24) in which the first device (11) refers to the contacts bearer data store (11d 11d') accessible to the first device (11) to obtain a list of at least two possible bearers for providing the connection (14).

15. (Currently amended) An apparatus included in a first device (11) for enabling the first device (11) to provide a connection (14) to a second device (12), characterized by:

means (11a) for obtaining <u>from a contacts bearer data store</u> <u>(11d 11d')</u> association information (11d 11d') including a list of at least two possible bearers for providing the connection (14)<u>,</u> <u>wherein the contacts bearer data store (11d 11d') associates</u> <u>contacts with bearers so as to arrange the association information</u> <u>by contact</u>; and

means (11a) for selecting one of the at least two possible bearers based on a predetermined selection strategy (11b) or by trying each of the at least two possible bearers in turn until the connection (14) is made;

thereby enabling automatic selection of a bearer for providing the connection (14) to the second device (12) without requiring an input by a user of the first device (11) at the time of providing the connection (14).

16. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 15, further characterized by:

means (20) for storing the association information in a contacts bearer data store (11d 11d'); and

means (24) by which the first device (11) refers to the contacts bearer data store (11d 11d') accessible to the first device (11) to obtain a list of at least two possible bearers for providing the connection (14).

17. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 15, wherein the predetermined selection strategy (11b) indicates selecting a bearer based on at least one of the following selection criteria: acceptable price; acceptable bandwidth; acceptable latency; as ordered in a list (11d 11d') hosted in the first device (11); fastest to connect when the first device (11) attempts to make different connections in parallel to the second device (12) via different possible bearers; wherein the acceptable price, acceptable bandwidth, and acceptable latency are as compared to

predetermined thresholds for price, bandwidth and latency.

18. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 15, wherein the association information (11d 11d') includes a bearer identifier for each of at least two different bearers associated with the second device (12).

19. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 15, wherein the means (28) for selecting a bearer is so adapted that the first device (11) attempts to connect to the second device (12) based on an association of the second device (12) linking the second device (12) to a name of an intended recipient.

20. (Currently amended) A system comprising a first device (11) and a second device (12), with the first device (11) including an apparatus for enabling the first device (11) to provide a connection (14) to the second device (12), the system characterized in that the apparatus comprises:

    means (11a) for obtaining <u>from a contacts bearer data store (11d 11d')</u> association information ~~(11d 11d')~~ including a list of at least two possible bearers for providing the connection (14)<u>,</u> <u>wherein the contacts bearer data store (11d 11d') associates contacts with bearers so as to arrange the association information by contact</u>; and

    means (11a) for selecting one of the at least two possible bearers based on a predetermined selection strategy (11b) or by trying each of the at least two possible bearers in turn until the connection (14) is made;

    thereby enabling automatic selection of a bearer for providing the connection (14) to the second device (12) without requiring an input by a user of the first device (11) at the time of providing the connection (14).

21. (Original) A system as in claim 20, further characterized in

that the apparatus also comprises:

means (20) for storing the association information in a contacts bearer data store (11d 11d'); and

means (24) by which the first device (11) refers to the contacts bearer data store (11d 11d') accessible to the first device (11) to obtain a list of at least two possible bearers for providing the connection (14).

22. (Original) A system as in claim 20, wherein the predetermined selection strategy (11b) indicates selecting a bearer based on at least one of the following selection criteria: acceptable price; acceptable bandwidth; acceptable latency; as ordered in a list (11d 11d') hosted in the first device (11); fastest to connect when the first device (11) attempts to make different connections in parallel to the second device (12) via different possible bearers; wherein the acceptable price, acceptable bandwidth, and acceptable latency are as compared to predetermined thresholds for price, bandwidth and latency.

23. (Original) A system as in claim 20, wherein the association information (11d 11d') includes a bearer identifier for each of at least two different bearers associated with the second device (12).

24. (Original) A system as in claim 20, further characterized in that the apparatus is such that the means (28) for selecting a bearer is so adapted that the first device (11) attempts to connect to the second device (12) based on an association of the second device (12) linking the second device (12) to a name of an intended recipient.